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The Encyclopedia of Sunda

Nature, People, and Culture

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It is a fact, often overlooked, that Indonesia is the world's largest archipelago. If a map of the archipelago were superimposed on one of Europe, for example, it would extend from the United Kingdom to the Balkan Peninsula and from Poland to Italy. The Indonesian archipelago consists of more than 13,000 islands, of which about 3,000 are inhabited. The inhabitants comprise a variety of ethnic groups, each with its own distinctive history and culture. Over 500 languages have been spoken here at one time or another; for centuries the Malay language served as Indonesia's lingua franca. In 1945, Indonesian, a version of Malay, was designated the official national language.

Indonesia has a rich variety of cultures. The national motto *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, means "unity in diversity." This refers to the act of binding disparate elements together to form the nation of Indonesia. The Indonesian language has served as one of the cords binding the Indonesian archipelago together, leading people throughout the archipelago to see themselves as sharing a single nationality—Indonesian. In a nation made up of many different ethnic groups, it is actually culture and language, rather than ethnicity itself, that defines an ethnic group. In terms of real ethnicity, there is no divergence among the Javanese, Sundanese, and Maduranese peoples, for example, but since each has a different language and culture, they regard themselves as distinct ethnic groups and are viewed as distinct by others.

Beginning in the early nineteenth century, officials of the Dutch government and Dutch scholars devoted considerable effort to studying various aspects of the languages and literatures of Indonesia's ethnic groups, with the underlying purpose of sustaining Dutch dominion in Indonesia. When Indonesia became a sovereign, independent nation, Indonesians perceived a need to rewrite their nation's history in accordance with their own phi-

losophies and interests, because all the existing history books merely reflected Dutch colonial interests. Amid the continuing political and social unrest that engulfed the nation after 1945, however, Indonesia was unable to find an appropriate format for a national history and education system. The government's basic policy on local and national culture failed for similar reasons. The Indonesian government, whose motto was "Unity and Integrity," was invariably suspicious of all local interests, due to abiding concerns about the impact of local political unrest on the central government. National leaders considered local initiatives to be subversive, the sort of conduct that could lead Indonesia into chaos. Their apprehension arose from a lack of profound knowledge and understanding of Indonesian culture and the role of culture as seen through the eyes of the people.

Given this background, no concrete action was ever taken to preserve local cultures. The government never showed any concern for local cultures, even though Indonesia's constitution explicitly requires the government to preserve local languages and cultures.

More than half a century has passed since Indonesia became a sovereign nation, and many of its local customs, beliefs, arts, and verbal traditions have disappeared, eradicated by social or political unrest or due to the impact of globalization. Eradication has not always been conspicuous, having occurred gradually, but is undeniable.

As someone who was born into the Sundanese ethnic group, the second largest ethnic group in Indonesia, and who lives as a Sundanese, I bear witness to the fact that many Sundanese cultural resources, traditions, and beliefs are disappearing over time. I can also testify that many Sundanese themselves do not recognize the culture of their own ancestors. This arises from the fact that our national history textbooks give hardly any mention to Sundanese history. For whatever reason, the Dutch wrote far less about the Sundanese than about the Javanese and other ethnic groups, such as the Minangkabau, Balinese, and Bugis.

This inspired me to set about compiling an encyclopedia of Sundanese culture. I wanted to create an encyclopedia devoted to serving the needs not only of those who are interested in learning about Sundanese

culture, but also of Sundanese people themselves. Through this encyclopedia, the Sundanese can learn more about themselves and their own culture.

I began to discuss this idea, and the Toyota Foundation expressed an interest in providing financial assistance. I contacted friends in Bandung and Jakarta to discuss the prospects for compiling an encyclopedia, and the idea gained support. Actually, at the beginning we intended to limit the scope of our efforts to Sundanese culture, but as time went by we realized that we were writing not only about culture but about all the facets of the Sundanese people, in order to describe the Sundanese ethnic group in sufficient detail. *The Encyclopedia of Sunda* would be Indonesia's first ethnic encyclopedia.

We formed an editorial team, of which I was the leader. I asked Professor Edi S. Ekadjati of Padjajaran University in Bandung to serve as an organizer, and I asked Professor Ayatrohaedi of the University of Indonesia in Jakarta, Dodong Djiwapradja and Professor Komarudin Sastradipoera, and Atik Soepandi S. Kar. of STSI in Bandung, as well as Dr. Abdurrahman, H. Embas Suherman, and Nanos to be editors. Others who were asked were initially willing to help, but eventually lost interest.

I had already acquired some experience working on an encyclopedia, having helped compile an encyclopedia of Indonesia as part of an editorial team led by Hasan Shadily. On that project, however, my efforts had been restricted to the field of literature. We asked Professor Taufik Abdullah, who has been involved in many encyclopedia projects in Indonesia, to serve as a consultant, and luckily for us he accepted our request. He offered technical guidance on how to compile an encyclopedia, and his guidance provided us with a reliable foundation for the duration of the project.

Because I was living in Japan at that time, we agreed that I would come to Indonesia at least twice a year, from February to March and from July to August. During my visits to Indonesia we held intensive meetings, gathering every day when necessary. At other times the editors worked at home, attending meetings only once a week, on Tuesdays.

At the beginning we planned to compile 4,000 entries over a period of five years. That would have meant finishing 800 entries each year, which proved to be too much. We reduced the target to 500 entries per year, aiming to produce an encyclopedia made up of 2,500 entries. It proved impossible to achieve even the revised target; we were only able to compile 250 entries within the space of a year. We invited experts from various fields to write articles on their re-

spective areas of expertise, and we sought their advice to determine which other areas should be covered in the encyclopedia. Despite a generally positive initial response, only a few experts submitted articles, and these had to be thoroughly revised because the authors, although experts, were not trained writers.

The most difficult thing was seeking out and compiling source materials. Most of the editors were in Bandung, while I was living in Japan. Most of the available source materials, however, were located in the National Library and the National Archives in Jakarta, and in the Royal Institute of Linguistics and Anthropology (KITLV) Library and Leiden University Library in the Netherlands. Luckily, we also located some valuable resources in the Patanjala Library in Bandung. Other members of the editorial team visited the National Library in Jakarta, while I visited the KITLV Library in Leiden. Unfortunately, there were many materials we could not find. One reason is that the Sundanese generally have had little concern for documentation. It seems that people were more concerned about documentation prior to World War II than they were after Indonesia achieved independence.

For all these reasons, the encyclopedia project was extended by five years. Over the course of what had become a 10-year effort, we compiled 3,500 entries. We wrote the articles first and started editing them when they were almost finished. We received unexpected assistance in this effort from H. Embas Suherman, an old friend of mine, whom I had asked to manage the project's finances. Mr. Suherman is not a writer, so he was not asked to compose entries, but he is a precise and critical reader and provided valuable advice on editing. We came to see that he was well experienced and possessed a deep understanding of Sundanese culture and customs, and we eventually asked him to serve as an editor.

One of our many challenges was figuring out how to obtain original illustrations of tools and other items used in daily life, which had been used by the Sundanese in the past but which were no longer available. Our illustrators, mostly younger people, had never used or even seen such things. Some items were found in the Sri Baduga Maharaja Museum in Bandung, and these were used as models, but other items could not be located anywhere. For these, the illustrators had to rely on explanations by people such as H. Embas Suherman and Dodong Djiwapradja. Sometimes it required five or six drawings to get a single satisfactory illustration.

A Dictionary of Classical Newari

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Nepal Bhasa, or “Newari”—as popularized by the eighteenth-century Capuchin missionaries, is the language spoken in and around the Nepal Valley since prehistoric times. The 1991 National Census reported that there were just over a million Newars living in Nepal, half of whom were in the Nepal Valley. About 66% of them spoke Newari as their native language, while the rest had switched over to Nepali, the national language of Nepal. Newari belongs to the Tibeto-Burman branch of the great Sino-Tibetan family of languages. Out of about 250 languages in this branch only four have a written literature: Tibetan (earliest written texts, circa ninth century), Burmese (eleventh century), Newari (twelfth century), and Manipuri (seventeenth century). Scholars have therefore found this language to be an important tool not only for comparative and historical studies of Tibeto-Burman linguistics but also for the study of the gradual diffusion and acculturation of Indian culture across the Himalayas. The Newars have preserved a large number of manuscripts, palm-leaf documents, and inscriptions written in what is known as Classical Newari. This name was popularized by the Danish linguist Hans Jorgensen (d. 1954), who devoted more than two decades of his most productive academic life to the study of the language. The main characteristic of this language, as distinct from colloquial Newari today, is the retention of medial and final syllables in polysyllabic words. Second, it has many verb forms and inflected forms of pronouns that no longer exist in contemporary speech. It also has a number of cognates common to related languages, which have been replaced by loanwords from the Middle and New Indo-Aryan languages today.

In the field of linguistics, Newari has long been considered a particularly important language as it is the only member of the Himalayan subgroup of the Bodic languages with a literary tradition. A dictionary of this language has evident applications in the study of the rich and complex culture of the Nepal Valley because the Newars have played a catalytic role through history in the Himalayan region as cultural mediators, receiving their inspiration and ideals from the south and taking them as far north or east as they could travel in ancient and medieval times. They have also preserved, in their literary out-

From the beginning we realized that compilation of *The Encyclopedia of Sunda* would be the first effort of its kind, for there were no encyclopedias on any ethnic group in Indonesia. We hoped our effort would be followed by the compilation of encyclopedias on other ethnic groups in Indonesia. The comments and reactions that reached us after the encyclopedia was published suggested a newfound self-confidence among Sundanese people, which was beyond our expectations. *The Encyclopedia of Sunda* made many Sundanese people proud to be Sundanese, because no other ethnic group in Indonesia had its own encyclopedia. A Sundanese association known as Paguyuban Sunda, which was established in 1914, held a special discussion of the encyclopedia to commemorate the association's eighty-sixth anniversary. The discussion, held on October 5, 2000, at the Hotel Homann Bandung in Bandung, was attended by hundreds of people and was covered widely by the press. The Television Service of the Republic of Indonesia for Bandung (TVRI Bandung) covered the event in a 90-minute broadcast. This level of attention exceeded all our expectations.

The publication of *The Encyclopedia of Sunda* has provided an opportunity for discussion of current issues in this era of globalization and “Indonesianization.” We have now formed a plan to hold an international conference of Sundanese culture, to be attended not only by experts on various aspects of Sundanese culture, both from Indonesia and from other countries, but also by teachers, cultural activists, journalists, university students, and others. The purpose of this conference is to build a beneficial dialogue for the development of Sundanese culture and for the benefit of Sundanese experts themselves.

Although discussions at the conference will focus on Sundanese culture, the findings will be helpful for comprehending the problems facing other local cultures in Indonesia as well. In the era of globalization, local cultures are basically all facing the same problems. When these are better understood, more precise policies and actions can be taken, and the mistakes of the past can be avoided. Appropriate policies and measures for dealing with local cultures will have a positive impact on the effort to build and develop an Indonesian national culture. Regionalism is not incompatible with nationalism; on the contrary, regionalism will make Indonesian national culture more vivid. This is the “diversity” that is enshrined in our national motto.

put and written records, a full documentation of an acculturation process by which a people fundamentally non-Aryan in ancestry were Hinduized and won over to intricate forms of thought, writing, rituals, and cultural practices during the two millennia of cultural and political dominance by the Hindu-Buddhist cultural and ruling elite.

A *Dictionary of Classical Newari* is compiled from 38 major manuscripts, 23 dated palm-leaf documents, 35 inscriptions and 3 postcolophon documents. These sources date from 1115 to 1799. The great value of these source materials is that almost all are dated. The manuscripts are drawn from diverse lexical fields, including the literary genres of poetry, drama, and narrative. Some of these texts are bilingual, with Sanskrit text and free Newari translations or paraphrases. Others are monolingual. The other major type of manuscripts used are the historical chronicles and diaries recording events of the court, town, temple, and ruling families. The source manuscripts were selected from among 1,200 extant manuscripts for their richness in vocabulary content and linguistic interest. There are, however, a large number of ritual and technical texts on subjects such as astronomy, medicine, architecture, dance, music, treatment of animals, and other esoteric areas that were left out of the present dictionary, primarily because of the specialized knowledge required and the vast number of these works.

The dictionary contains 30,942 entries, including 6,000 duplicates, orthographic and spelling variants, and well over 12,000 verb forms. There are also about 3,100 loanwords from Indo-Aryan sources, mainly Sanskrit, Maithili, and Eastern Hindi, and also some from Arabic-Persian-Urdu. It does not, however, include commonplace loanwords from Sanskrit because this would have made the volume too large and expensive with no scholarly or linguistic interest or value. After all, there is no need to consult a Classical Newari dictionary to search for a common Sanskrit word that can be easily found in a learner's pocket dictionary!

The dictionary entries are given in the Roman transliteration of the Newari script. This script is based on an adapted version of the Nagari script. In old Newari manuscripts, three scripts or styles were used—one with a hooked head, one with a flat head, and one with an ornamental style. All three, however, are derived from late Gupta characters, which date from the sixth or seventh century. The dictionary uses the alphabetical order of the Nagari script with a minor modification for nasalized forms, which come as absolute characters between the vowels and the following consonants.

Entries have the following nine main fields: 1) Romanized head entry, 2) its exact location in the manuscript in terms of recto/verso, folio number, and line number, 3) date in Nepala-Samvat, the national era that began on October 20, 879, and was used in the Nepal Valley in the early and late medieval periods, 4) part-of-speech label, 5) meaning in English, 6) etymology or source of the word, if it is a loanword from Indo-Aryan, 7) illustrative citation or the context in which the word or phrase is used, 8) meaning in English of the citation, and 9) modern form, if different from the head entry. In the case of words with spelling or orthographic differences, all the attested forms are given as variants. In the case of duplicates, the earliest attestation of the word is given as the head entry. As for verbs, the entries are organized on the nesting or embedding principle, with the infinitive given as the head entry and all other inflected forms (finite, nonfinite, causative, and adverbial-verbal) given as subentries. As a result, most verb entries are long, with some containing 80 or more forms and running to several pages. The unique feature of this dictionary lies in the chronological order of the entries. The earliest dated forms are either the head entry (in nonverb entries) or the main entry (in verb entries), thereby letting users study the historical evolution of linguistic forms and words as well as their morphology and grammar in context.

The dictionary basically was built on the view that the meaning of a word or linguistic form is the context of its use or uses. For this reason, almost all entries contain illustrative citations, all of which are or can be dated, and the meaning or grammatical assignment can be tested and verified by reviewing them in their context. The dictionary gives special attention to the verb material because the question of verb agreement in the languages of the Tibeto-Burman family is an extremely exciting field of research today. A lively and vigorous debate is going on among experts on various theoretical issues. For example, is there an agreement system in the older strata of the Tibeto-Burman languages by which the verb changes according to the number, person, and gender of the subject? Is transitivity—the effect of one's action on another person—more important than volitionality of the actor in these languages? How widespread is the classifier system? When did the so-called conjunct-disjunct system evolve? In Tibeto-Burman, is there a tense system with past, nonpast, and future or only a system of aspect (continuity/completion) or modality (probability/necessity/possibility)? Are Tibeto-Burman languages really

monosyllabic, with one syllable representing one meaningful unit? Do they have complex consonantal prefixes, clusters, or suffixes? *A Dictionary of Classical Newari* fully documents dated texts and data, and it can provide reliable answers and help settle a little theoretical dust and methodological anxiety of the contesting experts on at least some of these vexing questions of comparative and historical linguistics.

As all the illustrative citations have been translated into English, this dictionary is also, incidentally as it were, a large-scale attempt to translate into English nearly all of the 38 major manuscripts used here as sources. Though fewer words have been compiled from palm-leaf manuscripts and inscriptions, they too have been translated. Because of the preponderance of Sanskrit formulaic expressions in these sources, the incidence of indigenous words is low. Their historical, cultural, and linguistic significance cannot, however, be overemphasized. The oldest Newari document is a palm-leaf manuscript dating from 1115 on which is written "a stipulation of rules for the use and maintenance of land belonging to a Buddhist monastery."

The whole body of the dictionary is fully computerized. All the words can be retrieved and counted by any field, including, of course, part of speech. This is the first fully computerized dictionary to come out of Nepal. The software used in its compilation is Revelation, a database management system marketed by the U.S. company Cosmos in the late 1980s. The program was developed by Management Information Systems, based in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Aside from this, the compilation and editing of the dictionary was done entirely by Nepalese scholars. This work was accomplished under the academic and editorial guidance of the Nepal Bhasa Dictionary Committee—a private group of Newar linguists and cultural historians founded in 1980. It was compiled by a team of nine people over a six-year period and edited by a team of seven over an eight-year period under the leadership of Professor Kamal P. Malla, now Professor Emeritus of Linguistics and English at Tribhuvan University in Kirtipur, Nepal. There are, unfortunately, only a few scholars who know this ancient language, and some of them are already quite old.

This project was generously supported by a research grant spread over 1986 to 1992 and a publication grant received in 1994. The interest of the academic community in this dictionary is evident from the fact that on the very day it went on sale, September 11, 2000, half the copies sold out within an hour. As predicted by the late doyen of Sino-Tibetan

linguistics, Paul King Benedict, "The dictionary will be an important contribution not only to the field of Newari studies but to the entire field of Sino-Tibetan studies." Professor James A. Matisoff of the University of California at Berkeley, who will serve as editor of a Sino-Tibetan etymological dictionary that is now in the planning stage, also believed that "The dictionary will supply us with a unique lexical resource, not only of value to the historical linguist but to the descriptivist as well."

Preserving Southeast Asian Library and Archival Materials on Microfilm

Alan Feinstein

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The conservation of library and archival materials is a daunting problem worldwide. Most such resources are composed of organic material like paper (though papyrus, leather, palm leaf, bark, bone, wood, and bamboo are among the myriad other possibilities). Books, manuscripts, and archival records can weather the centuries well, if properly stored in ideally dark, cool, and dry conditions and handled carefully and not too frequently. Some materials, though, are inherently unstable, and their survival is left to chance and the elements. (Lovelorn poets in ancient Java wrote amorous verses on the petals of flowers, for example, which no doubt wilted soon after the intended had read them!) Ironically, the advent of machine-made paper in the mid-1800s, which rapidly became popular and is still commonly used, engendered a kind of time bomb for future generations. The pulp from which mass-produced paper is made contains traces of lignin, which reacts with oxygen in the air over time and eventually leads to the familiar yellowing (or "foxing") and then to total disintegration of pages into brittle fragments. Libraries around the world are filled with these time bombs, and librarians and archivists are forced to devise methods to transfer their contents to more stable media in order to preserve them. And since it is not possible to preserve everything and not every volume needs to have its contents duplicated, librarians must determine what is essential to reformat.

Southeast Asia is, of course, no stranger to these problems. In fact, they tend to be even more severe in Southeast Asian countries, (a) because of the hot and humid climate, which accelerates paper deteriora-

tion; (b) because of the lack of institutions, resources, and expertise to deal with the preservation problem; and (c) because the problem has been treated as a matter of low priority by librarians and archivists and by the governments that should be funding measures to overcome it.

There have been, however, notable efforts in the last several decades to address the huge library preservation problem. Local librarians, archivists, and scholars in the countries of Southeast Asia have been trying urgently to develop strategies to prevent further loss and deterioration and to preserve at least the texts of important materials so that they can continue to be read by current and future generations. They have also attracted the interest of their colleagues in the region, called attention to conservation matters within regional professional associations such as the Consortium of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL) and the Southeast Asia Regional Branch of the International Council of Archivists (SARBICA), and shared ideas with colleagues in other countries as well.

Nor have scholars, universities, libraries, governments, private foundations, and international organizations outside the region been idle. On the contrary, they have helped to initiate and have cooperated in efforts to identify and describe threatened materials, efforts to save such materials—whether in their original formats or in durable facsimiles such as microfilm—and efforts to publish information about these sorts of projects. This has required large expenditures of money and effort and, due to the stringent technical demands of conserving paper-based documents and transferring their contents in legible form to other media, has yielded mixed results: failures and qualified successes.

No matter how magnanimously one views the efforts that have been expended over the last several decades in Southeast Asia, the sad fact is that now, in the first year of the new millennium, the problem is as acute as ever. Even so, very few people are aware of it.

Together with Toyota Foundation program officer Etsuko Kawasaki, I recently represented the Foundation at an international meeting convened by the Chiang Mai University Library in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The meeting, devoted to the topic "Microform Preservation and Conservation Practices in Southeast Asia: Assessing Current Needs and Evaluating Past Projects," was a joint venture organized by the SPAFA (Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Project in Archaeology and Fine Arts) Library, the Chiang Mai University Library, and the

Southeast Asia Microform Project of the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago. The event was funded with grants from the Japan Foundation Asia Center and the Ford Foundation. Sixty-eight participants from 16 countries, including seven from Japan, attended the meeting.

Discussions at the four-day meeting dealt with various aspects of preservation management, including needs assessment and collections surveys, the priorities of scholars, the availability of funding, conservation and microfilm technologies, and bibliographic access. Various professional groups were represented whose memberships include historians and philologists, paper conservators, microfilm experts, librarians, and archivists. Also in attendance were a number of regional government officials who have responsibility for cultural preservation, as well as representatives of international organizations such as UNESCO, the International Federation of Library Associations, the Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient, and the Japan, Toyota, and Ford foundations, among others. The meeting was particularly concerned with addressing ways in which government officials, donor organizations, and international professional organizations can be brought into cooperative relationships with librarians, conservators, archivists, and other people working "on the ground" in the countries of the region.

The papers presented at the meeting—which have now been published along with summaries of the accompanying discussions—addressed such topics as the implementation of effective preservation management on a national level and the role of national commissions in preservation, regional cooperative preservation schemes and cooperative funding, schemes for attaining financial self-sufficiency, the design of effective technical and management training, international standards for microfilm preservation, provision of bibliographic access through the registration of microform masters, and the best practices for conserving original texts and master film negatives. The participants tried to deal head-on with some of the more challenging problems that have impeded preservation efforts in the past.

The meeting was unique in two senses. First, despite years of similar efforts in neighboring countries that often face very similar constraints on technology and infrastructure, and despite the fact that the same donors have been involved in funding such efforts, there has been very little sharing of project lessons, and the meeting addressed this need. Why do projects founder or fail? What is the most appropriate kind of

microfilm equipment to use in tropical libraries? What role should people in other countries—scholars, technical experts, and those providing funding—play in these projects? Where should copies be stored? What about copyright issues? Who should have access to the microfilms, and how do people find out the con-

tents of the microfilms? These were some of the difficult questions that this meeting enabled like-minded colleagues to consider together for the first time.

Secondly, this meeting expanded the definition of “colleagues” to include librarians as well as archivists, scholars both local and foreign, providers of

Chiang Mai Declaration of SEACAP

Mission Statement

We resolve to:

- Reaffirm the critical need for action to preserve and provide access to the published and documentary heritage of the Southeast Asian region
- Reaffirm that microform remains the primary reformatting medium for long-term preservation of the contents of library and archival materials, providing that international standards for production and storage are adhered to. Emerging new technologies such as digitization may be useful adjuncts for access and image-capturing, but must not be seen as substitutes for preservation on microfilm.
- Recommend that each country in the region have at least one center of excellence or model program in microform reformatting that conforms to international standards for production, storage and access
- Emphasize that reformatting of materials does not in any way reduce the institution's responsibility to preserve the original artifact where this is appropriate
- Recommend the formulation and adoption of national preservation and conservation policies for each country in the region.

Objectives

The meeting resolved to establish the Southeast Asian Consortium for Access and Preservation, or SEACAP, to encourage, develop, facilitate and support collaboration among libraries, archives, and other concerned institutions and individuals in order to preserve and provide access to the published and documentary heritage of the region.

SEACAP will undertake to serve local communities and scholars worldwide in providing access to materials relating to Southeast Asian studies, and enhance preservation activities in the region by carrying out the following tasks:

- To serve as a clearinghouse for sharing and exchanging information (in printed and electronic formats) on all aspects of preservation-related activities—for example, sharing information on preservation projects or on potential funding sources for carrying out such projects
- To update and maintain bibliographic tools, such as the Masterlist of Southeast Asian Microforms database
- To provide and coordinate training opportunities (including new and existing programs at institutions within and beyond the region) in order to increase benefit and reduce duplication
- To publish and disseminate training materials and the results of new research
- To promote research agendas relating to preservation issues
- To advise and consult on preservation issues and strategies
- To identify funding sources and to assist with the prepa-

ration and negotiation of proposals

- To promote the objectives of SEACAP to governments, international organizations, and foundations
- To coordinate activities with other networks and consortia, such as International Council on Archives (ICA); Southeast Asia Regional Branch, International Council on Archives (SARBICA); International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA); Southeast Asia Microforms Project (SEAM); and South East Asia-Pacific Audio Visual Archives Association (SEAPAVAA).
- To promote public awareness of the need to protect and preserve a threatened heritage
- To promote understanding of international and local copyright laws and to develop protocols and suggestions for emphasizing the rights of fair use

Action Agenda

Short-term

- Create a SEACAP temporary implementing committee comprised of representatives drawn from a cross-section of professions and institutions, and from a range of nations in the region, to plan and implement the immediate short-term resolutions of the meeting
- Establish a SEACAP website
- Establish listserv discussion group(s)
- Publish and disseminate the Proceedings of this meeting

Medium-term

- Form technical working groups
- Compile and make available a database for a revised Masterlist of Southeast Asian Microforms, adding data on film type and condition
- Begin emergency rescue of damaged microfilms in the region
- Assess the scope of the need for remastering of acetate films to polyester and initiate a plan to begin that work
- Conduct research on the suitability of storage of microfilms in hermetically sealed vacuum pouches
- Explore the cost-effectiveness of digitizing as a means of input to microform
- Produce guides to various collections

Long-term

- Gather and share information on the best practices for filming special materials such as lontar (palm leaf), parabaik, indigenous paper and bindings, etc.
- Conduct research into (a) the physical characteristics of local writing materials; and (b) appropriate indigenous preservation materials and techniques, including safe and effective insect repellents, etc.
- Plan and hold future similar conferences

funding from both the public and private sectors, and experts on paper conservation as well as specialists in microphotography.

On the final day of the meeting, the participants resolved to establish a Southeast Asian Consortium for Access and Preservation (SEACAP) and elected a steering committee consisting of representatives from each country involved, as well as an implementing committee consisting of representatives from several different professional fields. The participants also adopted a mission statement and short-term, medium-term, and long-term action agendas, which have been circulated as part of the "Chiang Mai Declaration" (reprinted above).

I should mention here that the Toyota Foundation has been prominent as a donor organization providing funds for activities relating to manuscript and archives preservation in Southeast Asia for the last 25 years, and a number of prominent spokespersons active in the scholarly and library and archives fields are former recipients of Foundation grants. A search of the Foundation's grant database revealed almost 70 projects related to manuscript preservation, inventory compilation, or philological study that received grant funding from the late 1970s to the present. Many of the projects were funded with multi-year grants. Several were represented or referred to at the Chiang Mai meeting.

In our remarks, Ms. Kawasaki and I stressed that Toyota Foundation grants have generally been small and have supported activities aimed at (1) identifying materials and describing them in published inventories or catalogues, (2) conserving original documents and producing durable facsimiles of their texts on microfilm, and (3) publishing editions and translations of unpublished materials. We have supported local scholars who have drawn attention to threatened materials and have lobbied governments and funding organizations to support preservation measures on a larger scale. We noted that while the Toyota Foundation alone cannot meet the need for large-scale funding (for example, for purchases of equipment and materials, for training, and for the buildings and facilities needed to properly store documents and films), perhaps small foundations such as ours can play a key "leveraging" role by supporting the relatively small-scale but crucial efforts of scholars and conservators in initiating projects and raising policy issues at higher levels.

One of the messages of the meeting was that foundations, governments, and international organizations need to play a role at all stages of project

planning and implementation, rather than passively waiting for funding proposals to arrive on their desks. The providers of funding have an obligation to educate themselves about the issues and about project strategies in this field, specifically in the context of Southeast Asia. To that end, I agreed to serve as a member of the SEACAP Implementing Committee.

The SEACAP meeting was a notable success. In the months following the meeting a number of the short-term and medium-term action agenda plans have been carried forward: the proceedings of the Chiang Mai meeting have since been published; SEACAP has initiated two active Internet discussion groups; a project to create a database of Thai manuscripts preserved on 643 reels of microfilm stored at Chiang Mai University is being carried out by SEACAP and the Pali Text Society in London; the National Library and National Archives of Indonesia have begun emergency procedures to evaluate, rescue, and preserve damaged or threatened microfilms in their collections; and SEACAP has launched a Website where useful information about preservation issues and links to other sources of information are available (<http://www.seacap.chiangmai.ac.th>).

In October 2000 a follow-up meeting of the SEACAP Implementing Committee was convened in Bangkok by Chiang Mai University, with representatives of CONSAL and SARBICA also taking part. The committee discussed collaborating with Cornell University in the United States to establish preservation training and mentoring programs in Southeast Asian libraries and archives. SEACAP and Cornell may also collaborate on a new long-distance learning program in library conservation that Cornell has been asked to develop by the U.S. Council of Library and Information Resources, using Southeast Asia as the first test area. Finally, the committee discussed and revised a draft of a funding proposal to create a Masterlist of Southeast Asian Microforms, an online catalog of important texts in microform held by an estimated 60 participating libraries and archives in Southeast Asia. The purpose of the proposed project is to enhance access to important texts preserved on film, as a service both to the scholarly community at large and to preservation planners in the region and beyond. The database will be available via the Internet and published in CD-ROM format in order to make it broadly accessible, even to people in countries where access to the Internet is not widely available.

Alan Feinstein is the author of "The Preservation of Manuscripts in Indonesia" in Illuminations: The Writing

Traditions of Indonesia, ed. Ann Kumar (NY/Tokyo: Weatherhill, 1996). A talk he gave at the National Diet Library in October 1999 on "Challenges to International Cooperation in Library Preservation" was recently published in the Japanese-language bulletin of the Japanese Librarians' Association.

Grants Awarded for Fiscal 2000

At the ninety-third meeting of its Board of Directors, held on September 20, 2000, the Toyota Foundation approved a total of ¥335.07 million to be awarded for 220 projects, including Research Grants, in fiscal 2000. Together with the grants approved in June, this brings the grant total to 237 projects and the total amount awarded in fiscal 2000 to ¥379.47 million.

On October 27, at a grant award ceremony held at the Century Hyatt Hotel in Tokyo, Foundation President Shosaburo Kimura presented the grant recipients with their awards. The following is a summary of the various grant programs.

Research Grant Program: 76 grants, ¥193.64 million

Grant applications were solicited from April 1 to May 20, 2000, and the response was an all-time record 1,016 applications. As in the past, the Foundation sought proposals for projects concerned with the program's core theme, "Creating a Society with Pluralistic Values," and addressed to one of four subthemes: (1) diverse cultures in interaction: global, regional, local; (2) the reform of social systems: toward strengthening civil society; (3) the global environment and the potential for human survival; and (4) science and technology in the age of civil society. The first two subthemes were revised for this year's program.

The proposals submitted were reviewed by three selection committees, which approved 42 individual research projects for Category A grants totaling ¥49.62 million, and 34 collaborative research projects for Category B grants totaling ¥144.02 million.

For all subthemes, fewer than 8% of the proposals submitted were approved for grants. Due to the large number of applications received and other factors, competition for grants was even more intense than in the past.

Many selection committee members have observed that, while there was an overall increase in the number of distinctive or unusual research proposals, there were relatively few proposals exhibiting methodological innovations or new techniques. It is hoped

that future proposals, starting with next year's applications, will offer more originality in terms of methodologies and techniques.

Southeast Asian National Research Program: 63 grants, \$508,100

This program supports research in Southeast Asia relating to the program's theme, "Cultural Issues in Contemporary Society." The Foundation accepts applications for this program all year long, this year receiving over 400 applications. Initial selections were made by the selection committee members responsible for each country, after which the entire committee convened for further screening. Based on these deliberations, 63 grants totaling \$508,100 were approved at the Board of Directors meeting.

Grants were awarded for 7 projects in Cambodia, 17 in Indonesia, 7 in Laos, 2 in Malaysia, 1 in Myanmar (Burma), 7 in the Philippines, 5 in Thailand, and 17 in Vietnam. This year marks the first time that grants have been awarded to support researchers in Myanmar. One such grant was awarded this year, and close attention will be paid to future developments.

Young Indonesian Researchers Program:

41 grants, 316.25 million rupiah (approximately \$39,000)

This year again, the program solicited proposals for grants for M.A. and Ph.D. research related to one of two key themes: "Reconstructing Indigenous Culture and History" and "Scientific Analysis of a Changing Society."

A total of 460 applications were received by the program liaison desk in Indonesia. The selection committee subsequently met in Jakarta for preliminary screening and final selection, ultimately approving 41 grants (27 for M.A. theses and 14 for Ph.D. dissertations) totaling 316.25 million rupiah. Selection committee members expressed a desire to see more independent and creative research performed by young researchers taking part in the program.

"Know Our Neighbors" Translation and Publication Programs: Japan, 9 grants, ¥15.74 million; other Asian countries, 19 grants, \$106,600

These programs promote mutual understanding among Japan and South and Southeast Asian countries by supporting the translation and publication of a broad variety of works in such fields as history, culture, political science, economics, and literature.

This year 13 applications were received for the program in Japan. Grants were awarded for translations of nine books on the humanities and social sciences in

Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, and Myanmar (Burma), or literary works from these countries.

A total of 42 applications, originating in various South and Southeast Asian countries, were received for the program in other Asian nations. Grants were awarded for projects involving books on humanities and social sciences, as well as literary works. Two of the projects are based in Indonesia, 1 in Malaysia, 1 in Mongolia, 1 in Myanmar, 4 in Nepal, 3 in Pakistan, 1 in Sri Lanka, and 6 in Thailand. One notable aspect of this year's program is that 4 of the 8 grant projects based in South Asian nations are devoted to works written by women. It is hoped that future progress in achieving mutual understanding through translation and publication projects will lead to the empowerment of women in Asia.

Foundation Initiative Grant Program: 11 grants, ¥49.28 million

This program, unlike other programs, does not publicly solicit applications. After an internal screening within the Foundation, the Board of Directors approves the awarding of grants. This year, grants were approved to support projects including an effort to reform systems of taxation and incorporation pertaining to NPOs and NGOs in Japan (led by Akira Matsubara).

Award Ceremony

At the grant award ceremony, the chairs of the various selection committees offered their comments on the selection process and the projects selected to receive grants. In addition, two of the recipients of this year's individual research (Category A) grants spoke about their own projects. Naruki Morimura of the Hayashibara Museum of Natural Sciences discussed a new wildlife "behavioral exhibit" at the museum, and Yuko Honya of Japan Women's University spoke about her study of textiles in Guatemala.

At the close of his remarks, Mr. Morimura displayed photographs of the four chimpanzees kept at his museum. The humorous aspects of these images helped to transform the mood of the gathering, injecting a playful note into what had been a very formal atmosphere. Then Ms. Honya ascended to the lectern dressed in traditional Guatemalan attire. The beauty of the fabric, woven on a simple loom, and its



Guatemalan woman weaving.

complex patterns evoked expressions of delight from people in the audience. Many of them gathered around Ms. Honya following her presentation, eager to see her costume up close.

After the award ceremony, a party was held at which a bouquet was presented to Yoneo Ishii, chair of the selection committee for the "Know Our Neighbors" Translation-Publication Programs (also the president of Kanda University of

International Studies and a member of the Toyota Foundation's Board of Directors), who was recently designated a Person of Cultural Merit by the Japanese government.

Start of Joint Environmental Activities Grant Program with Toyota Motor Corporation

Kyoichi Tanaka
Program Officer

Fiscal 2000 has brought the launch of the Toyota Environmental Activities Grant Program, a new grant program jointly organized by the Toyota Foundation and Toyota Motor Corporation. The program, which is expected to run through fiscal 2002, will award grants totaling approximately ¥200 million annually over a period of three years, for an overall total of approximately ¥600 million.

The new program was established to commemorate Toyota Motor Corporation's winning of a Global 500 Award, conferred by the United Nations Environment Program in 1999. The award recognizes individuals and organizations for distinguished efforts to protect or improve the environment in order to bring about sustainable development. Toyota Motor Corporation was recognized for its positive efforts to tackle environmental issues, including its efforts to construct an environmental management system (for compliance with ISO 14001, etc.), its development of a mass-produced hybrid vehicle, and its disclosure of environmental information.

The Foundation, in its role as the program secretariat, has embraced the following principles as the program's guiding concepts, taking into consider-

ation the basic notion of sustainable development as recognized by the Global 500 Award:

- It is essential to achieve harmony between people's lifestyles and the natural environment in order to ensure the healthy development of a truly rich and sound society in the 21st century; we need to recognize our responsibility to pass on the earth's resources to future generations. It is necessary to resolve environmental problems based on the recognition that these problems transcend national borders and are shared by all of humanity.
- It is important to steadily advance activities that incorporate sufficient attention to respective local characteristics in dealing with global environmental issues, while still preserving a global perspective.

Based on these fundamental concepts and taking for its theme "social investment in sustainable development," the program will provide grants to practice-based projects that are rooted in local communities, in the following areas:

1) "Commercializing environmental technology"

Grants for "incubators" for the successful commercialization of technology or for building essential systems for commercialization aimed at balancing environmental concerns and economic growth.

2) "Developing next-generation human resources"

Grants for projects that seek to educate by proposing and putting into practice increased environmental awareness and consideration for the environment among members of the next generation of people who face the challenge of making sustainable development a reality.

The program began accepting applications for grants in late May 2000 and although applications were only accepted for a period of six weeks, over 100 proposals were received. The program secretariat subsequently contacted those who submitted proposals to clarify their commitment to the program's aforementioned fundamental concepts, which resulted in some 30 applications. The secretariat performed preparatory procedures on these applications, obtaining expert evaluations when necessary. In late August the program's selection committee (consisting of eight members and chaired by Keiko Nakamura) convened and selected nine projects (listed below) to receive grants.

Prior to its deliberations, the selection committee heard introductory remarks delivered by Ms. Nakamura. She spoke about the task of implementing a joint grant program, voicing the hope that the result

of the joint effort by Toyota Motor Corporation and the Toyota Foundation would be a "hybrid"—a reference to Toyota's highly praised eco-car.

The committee's deliberations began with the area of "commercializing environmental technology." The secretariat first provided explanations of each proposal, and after the committee's deliberations, three projects were selected to receive grants. Committee members had praise for the attention devoted by all three projects to the cultural, social, and economic circumstances of each local setting.

Proceeding in the same manner, the committee deliberated on the proposals in the area of "developing next-generation human resources," ultimately selecting six projects to receive grants. All the projects selected were targeted at young people or public- or private-sector administrators, and there was a suffi-

Toyota Environmental Activities Grant Program: Projects awarded grants in fiscal 2000

Environmental Technology Area

- Project to promote high-quality, high-yield rice cultivation and integrated utilization of bio-gas among the Wa in Myanmar.

South-North Institute for Sustainable Development (China)

- Project to build local capacity in sustainable forest and natural resources management.

Pred Nai Community Support Group (Thailand)

- Project to develop a bio-digester in order to promote renewable energy and protect the environment in rural areas in Vietnam.

Center for Rural Communities Research & Development (Vietnam)

Next-Generation Human Resources

- Environmental activities awareness program targeting junior high school students and teachers in Eastern European nations.

Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (Hungary)

- Environmental program targeting elementary school students in the United States through tree-planting activities.

National Arbor Day Foundation (United States)

- Environmental education program targeting Vietnamese government officials who deal with environmental issues.

Center for Environment Research, Education, and Development (Vietnam)

- Leadership for Environment and Development program.

LEAD Japan Program (Japan)

- Iwate Kaze to Mori no Gakko (Iwate Wind and Forest School), a Hands-on Project to Create a Network for Utilization of Closed Schools.

Iwate QOL Network (Japan)

- Project to Train Leaders in Nature Experience Activities.

Japan Environmental Education Forum, Inc. (Japan)

cient level of expectation that they would have a real impact on the future. Because the program only provides single-year grants, however, the awarding of successive grants will have to be based on reconsideration of the proposals in light of the results of the first-year grants.

The current fiscal year is the first year of the program. All three grants awarded in the area of technology are for projects based in Asia, but some committee members expressed the view that consideration should be given to regional balance in the future. This is regarded as a challenge to be taken up in the next fiscal year.

The application period for fiscal 2001 is expected to be limited to the month of April. Anyone interested in applying should contact the Toyota Foundation secretariat (Global 500 Award Environmental Activities Grant Program).

Selection Committee

Keiko Nakamura (Chair)

Deputy Director General, JT Biohistory Research Hall

Norio Ogura

Professor, Graduate School of Bio-Applications and Systems Engineering, Tokyo University of Agriculture & Technology

Eiji Hosoda

Professor, Faculty of Economics, Keio University

Peterson Myers

Director, W. Alton Jones Foundation

Goran A. Persson

Director, Bellagio Forum for Sustainable Development

Somsak Sukwong

Executive Director, Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific

Shosaburo Kimura

President, Toyota Foundation

Fujio Cho

President, Toyota Motor Corporation

Introduction of Environmental Activities Program

Field Visit to the Pred Nai Community in Thailand

Masaaki Kusumi

Senior Program Officer

Let us take a closer look at one of the projects receiving a grant under the Toyota Environmental Activities

Grant Program, that of the Pred Nai Community Support Group in Thailand.

The setting is Pred Nai, a coastal village near the Cambodian border, 300 km southeast of Bangkok on the Gulf of Thailand. In the past, this was the site of an enormous mangrove forest, where people led stable lives supported by the forest and plentiful resources of marine products. However, excessive industry-led deforestation, especially the clearing of the forest since the 1980s to make room for shrimp-farming, has resulted in rapid deterioration of the environment. The fact that Japanese trading firms and the dietary habits of the shrimp-loving Japanese public have played a determining role in this process has lately become widely known.

In recent years, villagers have noticed a decline in their resources of marine products and have concluded that this is the result of the destruction of the mangrove forest. This concurs with recent ecological research. With the help of the Regional Community Forestry Training Center, which is based in Bangkok, the residents have equipped themselves to handle the task of resource management, and they have launched an effort to develop technology appropriate for improving the standard of living while preserving the natural environment.

Here, appropriate technology does not mean engineering technology; it means agricultural or ecological methods of natural-resource management. It means, for instance, identifying the periods and locations in which a certain type of crab lays its eggs, prohibiting fishing during those periods, and preserving the places where the eggs are laid. Moreover, it means planting trees to stabilize the surrounding environment. This process emphasizes action taken by



The Pred Nai meeting hall. Study groups have been formed for various subjects, from marine resources to joint savings.

local residents to derive the maximum possible benefits from their own indigenous knowledge.

I had the chance to accompany members from the Regional Community Forestry Training Center on a visit to Pred Nai and its neighboring fishing villages, and I had a firsthand look at the situation in the villages while observing the villagers gathering for their study sessions. The villagers of Pred Nai are said to have successfully stopped the flow of capital funding the development that was threatening to destroy their mangrove forest. This same sort of forward-looking attitude can be readily observed when the villagers gather for their meetings.



Returning from crab fishing. Near Pred Nai.

causes such as land development. Giving this abundant plant life a place alongside other valued resources and ensuring its conservation and sustainable use are urgent topics for Nepal today, and the formulation of concrete policy proposals on these matters for the Nepalese government was another aim of the symposium.

The plans for the symposium represented the joint efforts of Japan and Nepal. On the Japanese side, the Society for the Conservation and Development of Himalayan Medicinal Resources, headed by Akihito Takano, put together an organizing committee staffed by Dr. Watanabe and other Japanese researchers with expertise in Himalayan studies. In Nepal, the Department of Plant Resources of the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation played a central role.

The gathering attracted 40 Japanese participants, including pharmaceutical company researchers, and more than 250 participants from Nepal, including government officials and representatives from private companies and nongovernmental organizations. The symposium's importance was underscored by the presence of Nepal's foreign minister, Japan's ambassador to Nepal, and other top-ranking government officials at the opening ceremonies. About 50 journalists attended a press conference held prior to the symposium, and the event received extensive coverage on television and radio and in the newspapers.

The three-day symposium featured 34 talks and 38 presentations on four themes: (1) general policy and legislation; (2) inventories, research, and development; (3) conservation and sustainable use; and (4)

First Nepal-Japan Joint Symposium on Conservation and Utilization of Himalayan Medicinal Resources

A symposium was held on the conservation and use of Himalayan medicinal plant resources over a three-day period from November 8 to 10, 2000, in the Nepalese capital of Katmandu. The event was organized mainly for the purpose of sharing the benefits of a research project entitled "Basic Research on the Exploration and Preservation of Medicinal Plants Found in Himalayan Forests," which was undertaken by Takashi Watanabe, an assistant lecturer at the Medicine Plant Gardens of Kitasato University's School of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Watanabe was the recipient of a Toyota Foundation individual-research grant in fiscal 1995 (April 1995 to March 1996).

The Himalayan region has a diverse range of climates that support a vast array of vegetation. Nepal in particular is known as a treasure trove of plant life, with as many as 7,000 species growing wild there. Dr. Watanabe's research, which has spanned a long period beginning in 1984, found that 700 of these, or a tenth of the total, have been used locally as medicinal plants in traditional treatments. At the same time, however, he discovered that some of the species were coming under the threat of extinction due to overcutting and changes in the environment arising from



industrialization and commercialization. The presentations, although limited to only 15 minutes each, were informative and thought-provoking.

On the last day of the symposium, Director-General M.S. Bista of the Department of Plant Resources presided over the gathering. Special reports were given by four guest speakers. The first was W. John Kress of the United States, who serves as curator of botany at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. Dr. Kress described the objectives of the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity and touched on the use of medicinal plants as intellectual property. He also emphasized the importance of conservation and the sustainable use of Himalayan medicinal resources—the main theme of the symposium.

Next, Toshiyuki Akiyama of the Japanese pharmaceutical manufacturer Sankyo described the process of marketing a plant-based pharmaceutical product, starting from the initial stage at which suitable plants are located. As a case study, he cited the example of an ulcer medication developed by Sankyo over a period of 14 years. The third speaker was D.B. Bhatiya Sumithraarachchi of Sri Lanka, director of the Peradenia Royal Botanical Gardens, who spoke about the role of botanical gardens in developing countries.

The last speaker was Professor Tetsuo Koyama of Nihon University in Japan, who lent his support to the symposium from the initial planning stages. A specialist in plant taxonomy and resource botany who serves as the director of the Kochi Prefecture Makino Botanical Gardens, Professor Koyama has conducted extensive field research around the world. In his remarks, he made a number of noteworthy comments on the negative aspects of "plant resource nationalism." The Convention on Biological Diversity, he explained, called for both ethical and economic factors to be considered in relation to protecting biodiversity and achieving the sustainable use and development of plant resources. This represented an attempt to prevent "resource nationalism" from obstructing botanical research. Protection, however, soon became a pretext for demanding unreasonable prices for plant materials used in research, and this made it impossible to achieve one of the other objectives of the treaty—research and utilization. As a possible solution, Professor Koyama proposed that a clear line be drawn between the research stage and commercialization stage in the use of plant resources, and he suggested that during the research stage, results be shared based on an agreement between the country possessing the resource and the

country sponsoring the research. He also stressed the importance of making sure that contracts are in place to ensure that the country possessing the resource receives economic benefits from the product eventually developed.

On the afternoon of the symposium's final day, group discussions were held on the four themes of the symposium, and proposals were formulated on the basis of these discussions. The resulting proposals emphasized the need to foster both basic research and practical applications, as well as the need to create a system to ensure that local knowledge is put to use and that local residents share in the benefits. M.S. Bista presented these proposals to the symposium's principal guest, National Planning Commission Vice Chairman P.R. Ligal. It is hoped that Vice Chairman Ligal will regard these proposals not merely as a symbolic expression of concern but as pragmatic suggestions to be put into actual practice, particularly in view of the broad range of subjects covered by the symposium and the considerable attention it has attracted.

Workshop Brings CIVICUS Officials and Japanese Citizens' Organizations Together in Tokyo

CIVICUS is a global alliance of civil society organizations, or CSOs, which was established in 1994 to promote the activities of citizens' groups in countries throughout the world. CIVICUS held a world assembly in Manila in 1999 and has plans to hold another—its fourth—in Vancouver, Canada, in 2001. The Vancouver gathering is expected to attract representatives from nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations, officials from various foundations, and researchers in the field of philanthropy from all over the world.

More than 500 organizations currently belong to CIVICUS, primarily made up of national CSO centers from various countries. Japan, however, along with the rest of East Asia and the nations of Southeast Asia, continues to be underrepresented in the organization in comparison to countries in other regions. It is hoped that organizations in East and Southeast Asia will be more active in the future.

With this in mind, CIVICUS decided to hold its second board of directors' meeting for 2000 in Tokyo, from November 2 to November 3, and requested that a "dialogue" with Japanese CSO representatives be held in conjunction with the meeting. An organizing commit-

tee consisting of officials from CSOs in Japan, including a number of people from the Toyota Foundation, was set up to plan and hold a workshop for this purpose.

Thought-Provoking Sessions

The workshop, for which the designated theme was "A Dialogue with CIVICUS: Civil Society in Japan, Civil Society in the Rest of the World," began on the afternoon of November 1 at the International House of Japan in Tokyo. More than 80 people attended, including 25 members of the CIVICUS board of directors, who arrived from Australia, Britain, Canada, Egypt, Fiji, India, Kenya, Morocco, New Zealand, the United States, and elsewhere.

The event opened with remarks by Toyota Foundation Managing Director Chimaki Kurokawa, who described the objectives of the gathering, and CIVICUS Secretary General Kumi Naido, who spoke about the organization's operations and mission. After these remarks, talks and discussions unfolded in three sessions.

The first session focused on civil society in Japan. Naoki Tanaka, president of the 21st Century Public Policy Institute, delivered the keynote address, entitled "The Future of Japanese Civil Society and Nonprofit Organizations." Mr. Tanaka pointed out that rapid globalization is creating fissures in the nation-state and Japan's economy, and that Japanese society now faces the challenge of an aging population. Under these circumstances, he said, nonprofit organizations, or NPOs, will have a growing role and the Internet will be increasingly important as a medium for citizen participation.

Next, Yoshinori Yamaoka, managing director of the Japan NPO Center, spoke about the current state and future direction of Japan's NPOs. According to Mr. Yamaoka, citizen organizations got off to a late start in Japan, but became more active in the 1980s. Following the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995, volunteers and private-sector groups received considerable attention for their contributions to relief efforts. This paved the way for the passage of the Law to Promote Specified Nonprofit Activities (also called the NPO Law) in 1998, which is aimed at promoting private-sector volunteer activities. Mr. Yamaoka pointed out that social systems in Japan are now being reformed, as demonstrated by the passage of the NPO Law, the introduction of long-term care insurance, and the enactment of a package of amendments intended to promote decentralization, and stated that this will make the role of NPOs even more important. At the same time, he said, NPOs will need to cooperate with the government—par-

ticularly local governments—and businesses, pointing up the need for a new tax system to strengthen their economic base.

Session Two and Dialogue Session

The second session featured talks addressing the theme "Civil Society in Japan and International Cooperation," delivered by representatives of three Japanese organizations with completely different origins and experiences.

Naoko Taniguchi, the head of Paletto, reported on how the idea of producing cookies, which started out as a plan to give people with mental retardation a means of achieving a measure of independence in the community, has now spread to Sri Lanka, where similar employment is being created for disabled people. Michiya Kumaoka, president of the Japan International Volunteer Center, described the evolution of that organization's activities and guiding principles, from engaging in relief activities for refugees to providing developmental assistance to issuing proposals. Kensuke Onishi, chief coordinator of Peace Winds Japan, described the framework and aims of the "Japan Platform," a new system to ensure cooperation among NGOs, businesses, and the government when another country requires emergency assistance.

In the closing session, a lively debate unfolded under the direction of Yoko Kitazawa, adviser to the Pacific-Asia Resource Center. The discussion primarily addressed three areas: (1) funding and training for NPOs and NGOs, (2) cooperation between NPOs and NGOs and businesses or the government, and (3) the international activities of Japanese NPOs and NGOs. Questions and comments concerning the day's lectures and reports were also addressed.

The workshop provided valuable pointers to people working for CSOs in Japan, which now find themselves at a crossroads. They also provided CSO leaders from other countries with an opportunity to learn about Japanese society and the activities of their Japanese counterparts. This event was a meaningful first step in the development of a full-fledged regimen for ongoing interaction.

Recent Publications Based on Foundation-Supported Research

A Threat to Life: The Impact of Climate Change on Japan's Biodiversity. Akiko Domoto, Kunio Iwatsuki, Takeo

Kawamichi, and Jeffrey McNeely, eds. Tokyo: Tsukiji-Shokan Publishing Co., 2000.

A Threat to Life: The Impact of Climate Change on Japan's Biodiversity was edited by Biodiversity Network Japan, a nongovernmental organization of scientists and biodiversity specialists. As a prelude to the Third Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Kyoto in 1997, Biodiversity Network Japan, in cooperation with the World Conservation Union, organized a series of four symposiums featuring reports by specialists. The first symposium, held in Tokyo, focused on climate change and forests. The second, in Nagoya, dealt with global warming and infectious diseases. The third symposium was held in Sendai and focused on global warming and the resulting crisis for biodiversity. The fourth, held in Kyoto, addressed the subject of global warming and its effects on wetlands and coral reefs.

The presentations made at these symposiums were compiled into a single volume and presented to the 1997 conference on climate change in Kyoto. The book, entitled *Ondanka ni owareru ikimonotachi* (The Threat of Climate Change to Biodiversity), attracted the interest of specialists from outside Japan, and a decision was made to issue a revised and expanded English-language edition, including original contributions from new authors, under the title *A Threat to Life: The Impact of Climate Change on Japan's Biodiversity*.

The relationship between climate change and biodiversity has not been adequately addressed by international organizations, primarily because it is difficult to scientifically prove the existence of such a relationship. To wait for proof of a causal relationship, however, would require waiting until abnormalities appear in the development of existing living organisms, at which time irreversible damage may already have occurred.

A Threat to Life comprises three parts: (1) Toward a Biospheric Approach Advancing from the Intersection of the Two Rio Conventions, (2) An Overview of Climate Change from the Past to the Future, and (3) The Impact of Global Warming on Flora and Fauna. This volume provides valuable information on the relationship between climate change and biodiversity and encourages meaningful discussions on the subject in international organizations. The publication of this book was funded with a grant from the Toyota Foundation's Grant Program for Citizen Activities in fiscal 1998 (April 1998 to March 1999).

Mourning the Loss of Hirofumi Yamashita, Leading Light in Protection of Japan's Wetlands and Tidal Flatlands

Hirofumi Yamashita, who gained renown in Japan and around the world as a leader of the movement to protect the tidal flatland of Isahaya Bay (Nagasaki Prefecture), died suddenly of heart failure on July 21, 2000. He was 66.

Mr. Yamashita had been active as a conservationist since 1989. As spokesman for an environmental research facility and co-leader of the Japan Wetlands Action Network (JAWAN), a coalition of individuals and organizations devoted to wetland conservation, he helped mobilize the movement to protect Japan's wetlands and worked to design regional development schemes that would preserve the natural environment. Since 1997, when a 7,400-acre section of the Isahaya Bay wetlands was effectively walled off from the sea, he had devoted his energies to a group called the Isahaya Bay Emergency Rescue Task Force, leading a campaign to revive the wetlands ecosystem. In 1998, Mr. Yamashita was recognized for his distinguished service on behalf of international environmental causes when he was awarded the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize (by an organization based in the United States).

Mr. Yamashita was associated with the Toyota Foundation in various ways, both as a grant recipient (Grant Program for Citizen Activities and Citizen Research Contest) and as a selection committee member (Grant Program for Citizen Activities). Through this association, the Foundation benefited greatly from Mr. Yamashita's many invaluable suggestions.

The Toyota Foundation welcomes responses from readers of the *Occasional Report*. Comments and questions should be addressed to the International Division, The Toyota Foundation, Shinjuku Mitsui Building 37F, 2-1-1 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 163-0437, Japan. The articles in the *Occasional Report* reflect the authors' opinions and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Foundation.

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